



## Issue No: 136

**Driving the wheel of fellowship**

## July '16 Newsletter

### **July** **Speaker Finder** **Grace & Thanks**

Monday	4th	Normal Meeting	John Howell	John Roberson
Thursday	7th	Council		
Monday	11th	Business Meeting		
Monday	18th	Normal Meeting	John Turner	Hugh Robertson Smith
Monday	25th	Joint Meeting with Wycliffe	Lutterworth Golf Club	

### **August**

Monday	1st	Normal Meeting	Steve Tallis	Mark Thompson
Monday	8th	Normal Meeting	John Dehnel	Anne Baker
Thursday	11th	Council		
Monday	15th	Business Meeting		
Monday	22nd	Normal Meeting	Sally Hollis	TBA

If you are unable to carry out your 'duty' please find a substitute and tell **David Ayres** Tel: 01455 202224 email ayres4feet@btinternet.com

## Jersey Report last month - clarification

Anne has asked that my report of her talk on Jersey “states” it was under the control of the occupying forces Jersey’s Law and Government were allowed to function - - - - -

### Talk on Burma by John Roberson 23rd May

Burma or Myanmar as it’s called today is not a country many people know and it’s only recently that it has opened its borders to tourists. John Roberson has just returned with his wife Carol from a holiday there and gave us the benefit of hearing and seeing what they saw there – an experience many of us will not have the opportunity of experiencing.

Here are a few notes on his talk on their trip in February.

Myanmar (formally Burma) is a South Eastern Asian Nation with a population of around 51 million people with 14 states and many different ethnic groups. It has borders with Bangladesh, India, China, Laos and Thailand and in days gone by was part of the Silk Road running east to west from China to India and the middle east.



Their religion is mostly Buddhist, but it contains many ethnic minorities. The most disadvantaged are the Ro-



hingya Muslims, who have no rights and are are considered stateless.



In the 11<sup>th</sup> Century it was a Unified State with its capital Bagan changing to Awa in the 14<sup>th</sup> Century and to Mandalay in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century, which was designed on the grid principle following a visit by the Burmese royal family to New York. It now has a population of 1.2 million.

The first Burma war of 1824 started the British rule in Burma, which was finally consolidated by the conquest of Mandalay in 1885, when it became a British Colony and was administered from India. In the second world war the Japanese took Burma and it was only taken back by the British towards the end of the war. It was granted independence in 1948. In 1962 there was a military takeover and it was only nominally returned to



civilian rule in 2011. However, the army was still effectively in full control and it is only following the election won by Aung San Suu Kyi in 2015 that a full transition to civilian rule is being attempted.

John told us that al-



though they had had a turbulent past, they had a most relaxed attitude particularly to foreigners. The majority of the population are farmers, rice being their main crop. The Chinese are heavily involved with mining for coal and other minerals, especially jade, also road building.

There are thousands of Buddhist Statues and Pagodas to be seen everywhere – the largest and most spectacular they saw was in Rangoon (sorry Yangon) called the Shwedagon Pagoda which apart from being heavily gilded houses Buddhist relics dating back to the 6<sup>th</sup> Century.

Their exchange rate is currently around 1700 Kyats to the £ (pound)

These notes are but a small amount of what John told us, but hopefully will give a flavour of what they saw of the country itself.

### **Retiring Club Officers**

It is with great regret that two of our long serving committee members will be retiring as Club Officers - Graham Johnson and Elaine Turner at the end of June.

A Club such as ours will obviously miss their input but we are fortunate to have new members capable of filling their posts. May we all say thank you for leaving the club in such a good state.

### **Report by Graham Johnson – Outgoing Chairman of the Club's Fundraising Committee**

After many years as the Fundraising Chairman, I have decided to step down. I have really enjoyed helping raise funds for very worthy causes, and have had a lot of fun doing so.

The money we have raised would not have been possible with-

out the tremendous work of Elaine Turner who has been so involved during my time as Chairman. I would also like to thank all my fellow Rotarians for their support and enthusiasm in helping with raising funds for the charities we have supported.

I must highlight perhaps the following as the most significant in my time:

The Barn Dance at David Haynes' farm

Ferret Racing – this was John Wilson's project

The Santa Fun Run, brought to the Club by past member John Ensor, masterminded by the late Malcolm Richardson and continued by John Turner with his team from our Club and the Lutterworth Wycliffe Club

The VE Day 50 Year Celebrations in 1995 at Bruntingthorpe, under the direction of David Walton

The Big Bike Ride with John Turner, Bernard Johnson and Martin Iliffe

The Misterton Craft, Food and Plant with Elaine Turner and her team.

Sponsored Penny Farthing Ride to Hinckley and back

Oompah Band Nights

Pudding Night Suppers, sometimes with Fancy Dress

Cheese and Wine events

Duck Racing

Fashion Shows

Sponsored Weight Loss

Morrisons' Collections

Easter Egg Raffle

Golf Days

Coffee Mornings run by Bob and Eileen Derrick

Mega Second Hand Shop Sales

Frog Racing

Poachers Supper Nights

Balloon Races

Long Alley Skittles

Raft Racing over Misterton Lake

Fun Runs around Lutterworth

Music and Afternoon Tea Marquee Days

Metal Detecting

Wishing Well at the Greyhound Coaching Inn

Mad Hatter's Tea Party

Disabled Sailing on Tall Ships

Rutland Sailability

Donations to the Boy Scouts and Girl Guides  
Disabled Sports, led by John Roberson and Bryan Cooper  
Helping young people to visit other countries  
Aquaboxes, led by Bernard Johnson  
Shelterboxes  
Mercy Ships

All this has allowed multiple donations by the Club to numerous Local, National and International Charities over the years.

Just a few more thank-yous. I would like to thank Mrs Heather Craven for her generosity and hospitality in allowing our Club to use the wonderful gardens and grounds of her home to raise thousands of pounds over the years for so many different charities. Also Robert Eggleston of the Greyhound Coaching Inn for his support to our fundraising activities. And Steve Tallis for the numerous times he managed the erection and dismantling of the marquee for our various events.

In concluding, I must emphasise again that all these events were only successful because of the full backing of our wonderful Rotary Club members. Thank you all for your support over the years. I now pass the baton on to Mark Thompson and wish him every success. Please continue your support for him.

To you all – many, many thanks

Graham Johnson



**Elaine Turner** is retiring from Council after 16 years in one capacity or another.

Firstly as Treasurer then Junior Vice President , Vice President , President, Past President, Foundation Chairman and latterly Community and Vocational Chairman. During this time she has supported Graham in fundraising and John Turner in International and built up a good rapport with Lutterworth College, Lutterworth College Enterprise Centre and Lutterworth Sherrier School which has been mutually beneficial. Special thanks are due to Bryan Cooper and John



Roberson for the splendid job they have done with Disabled Sports. Also thanks to Bridget for organising the Hospital visit rota.

Thanks to all the drivers of the weekly Stroke bus, I have thoroughly enjoyed my time on Council and will continue to support the new members taking over and wish them well.

What has been fantastic has been the loyal support of fellow Rotarians for all the different projects with which I have been involved. Thank you all.

### **Wishing Well**

The Wishing Well at the Greyhound Coaching Inn was installed in October 2012 and to date the amount collected is £1,047 for Water Aid up to the end of May.

## **Air Ambulance visits 9th June and 1st July**

The club were invited to visit the Air Ambulance centre at East Midlands Airport and see their operation in action.

Our thanks to their hosting the two visits.

See below a couple of photos which gives an idea of the helicopter flights showing their dedication to saving lives where land ambulances have difficulty to reach.

### **Elaine and George at the Royal Garden Party at Buckingham Palace.**

Elaine and George to be guests of Her Majesty the Queen at Buckingham Palace for a royal garden party on 19 May.



### **Turner den Party, Buck-**

Turner were invited Majesty the Queen ace for a royal gar-

For Elaine the day was a "dream come true." They were able to stroll around the beautiful gardens whilst listening to the bands and ate the traditional crustless cucumber sandwiches, dainty fancy cakes and lots of ice cream. The party concluded when a parade of Beefeaters escorted the Queen to the national anthem.

The invitation was in recognition of over 50 years of fund raising and community service with local charities including riding for the disabled and Macmillan Cancer Support which benefited from over £5,000 raised through plant stalls and other activities with family and friends.

George and Elaine mentored students at The Enterprise Centre in Lutterworth who found conventional schooling challenging